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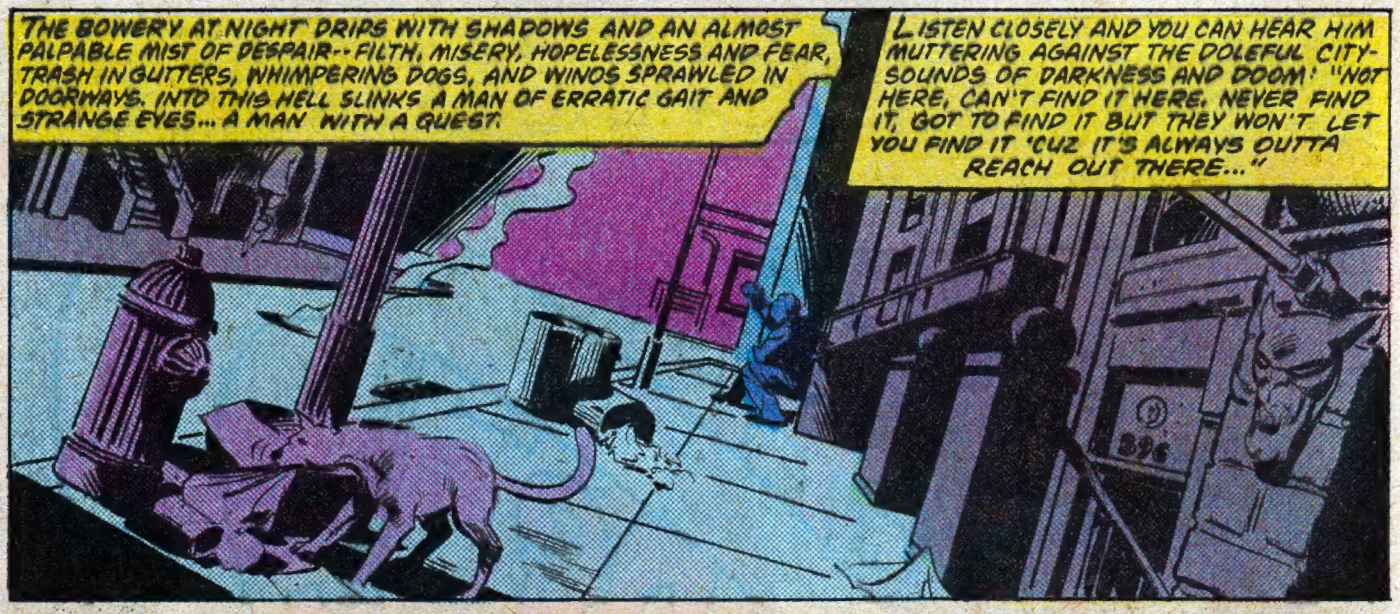

THE BOWERY AT NIGHT DRIPS WITH SHADOWS AND AN ALMOST PALPABLE MIST OF DESPAIR--FILTH, MISERY, HOPELESSNESS AND FEAR, TRASH IN GUTTERS, WHIMPERING DOGS, AND WINOS SPRAWLED IN DOORWAYS. INTO THIS HELL SLINKS A MAN OF ERRATIC GAIT AND STRANGE EYES... A MAN WITH A QUEST.
LISTEN CLOSELY AND YOU CAN HEAR HIM MUTTERING AGAINST THE DOLEFUL CITY-SOUNDS OF DARKNESS AND DOOM! "NOT HERE, CAN'T FIND IT HERE. NEVER FIND IT, GOT TO FIND IT BUT THEY WON'T LET YOU FIND IT 'CUZ IT'S ALWAYS OUTTA REACH OUT THERE..."

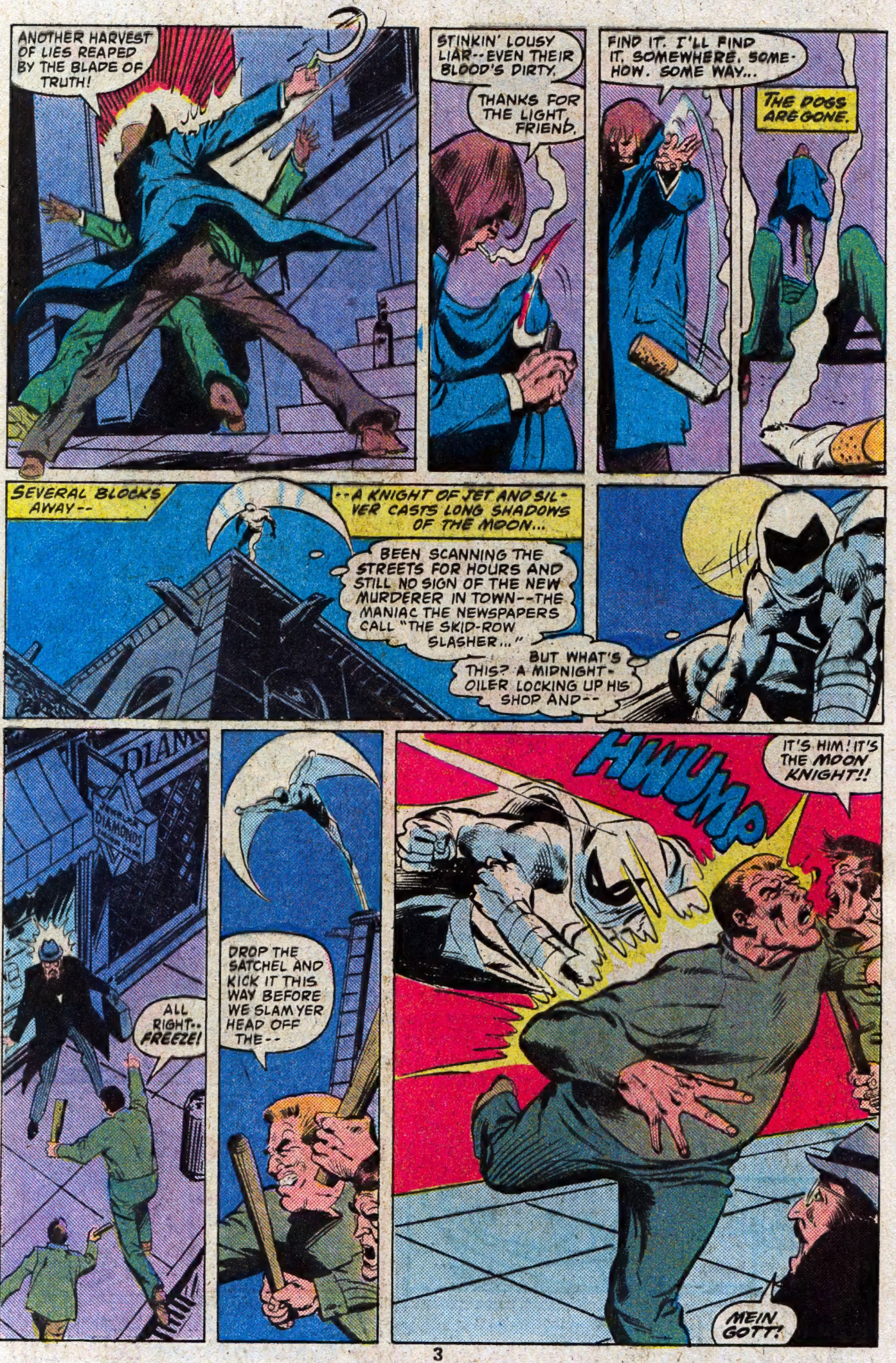
...ALWAYS HIDING BUT IT'S HERE SOMEWHERE 'CUZ IT AIN'T ANYWHERE ELSE, ALREADY LOOKED...
MAYBE HIM, MAYBE THAT ONE ON THE STAIRS, MAYBE HE'LL KNOW...
THE DOGS STOP WHIMPERING, AND BEGIN TO SNARL. THEY KNOW SOMETHING.

HEY, FRIEND, GOT A LIGHT?
YEAH, SURE--BUT NO DRINK.
NOT THIRSTY. WHERE YOU FROM, FRIEND?
WHAT'D YOU DO BEFORE IT FELL APART? GOT A WIFE? KIDS?

NO...NO WIFE...NO KIDS...NO NOTHIN' ...KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
TELL ME--ARE YOU THE ONE?
SAY WHAT?
DO YOU HAVE IT? WERE YOU IN TRENTON, NEW JERSEY TWENTY YEARS AGO? ANSWER ME! WERE YOU?!

N-NO... NEVER BEEN TO TRENTON. WHY?
THEN YOU'RE NOT THE ONE! YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!

OH NO.
ANOTHER LIAR!


ANOTHER HARVEST OF LIES REAPED BY THE BLADE OF TRUTH!
STINKIN' LOUSY LIAR--EVEN THEIR BLOOD'S DIRTY.
THANKS FOR THE LIGHT, FRIEND.
FIND IT. I'LL FIND IT. SOMEWHERE. SOMEHOW. SOME WAY...
THE DOGS ARE GONE.
SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY--
--A KNIGHT OF JET AND SILVER CASTS LONG SHADOWS OF THE MOON...
BEEN SCANNING THE STREETS FOR HOURS AND STILL NO SIGN OF THE NEW MURDERER IN TOWN--THE MANIAC THE NEWSPAPERS CALL "THE SKID-ROW SLASHER..."
BUT WHAT'S THIS? A MIDNIGHT-OILER LOCKING UP HIS SHOP AND--
DIAMONDS
ALL RIGHT.. FREEZE!
DROP THE SATCHEL AND KICK IT THIS WAY BEFORE WE SLAM YER HEAD OFF THE--
HWUMP
IT'S HIM! IT'S THE MOON KNIGHT!!
MEIN GOTT!

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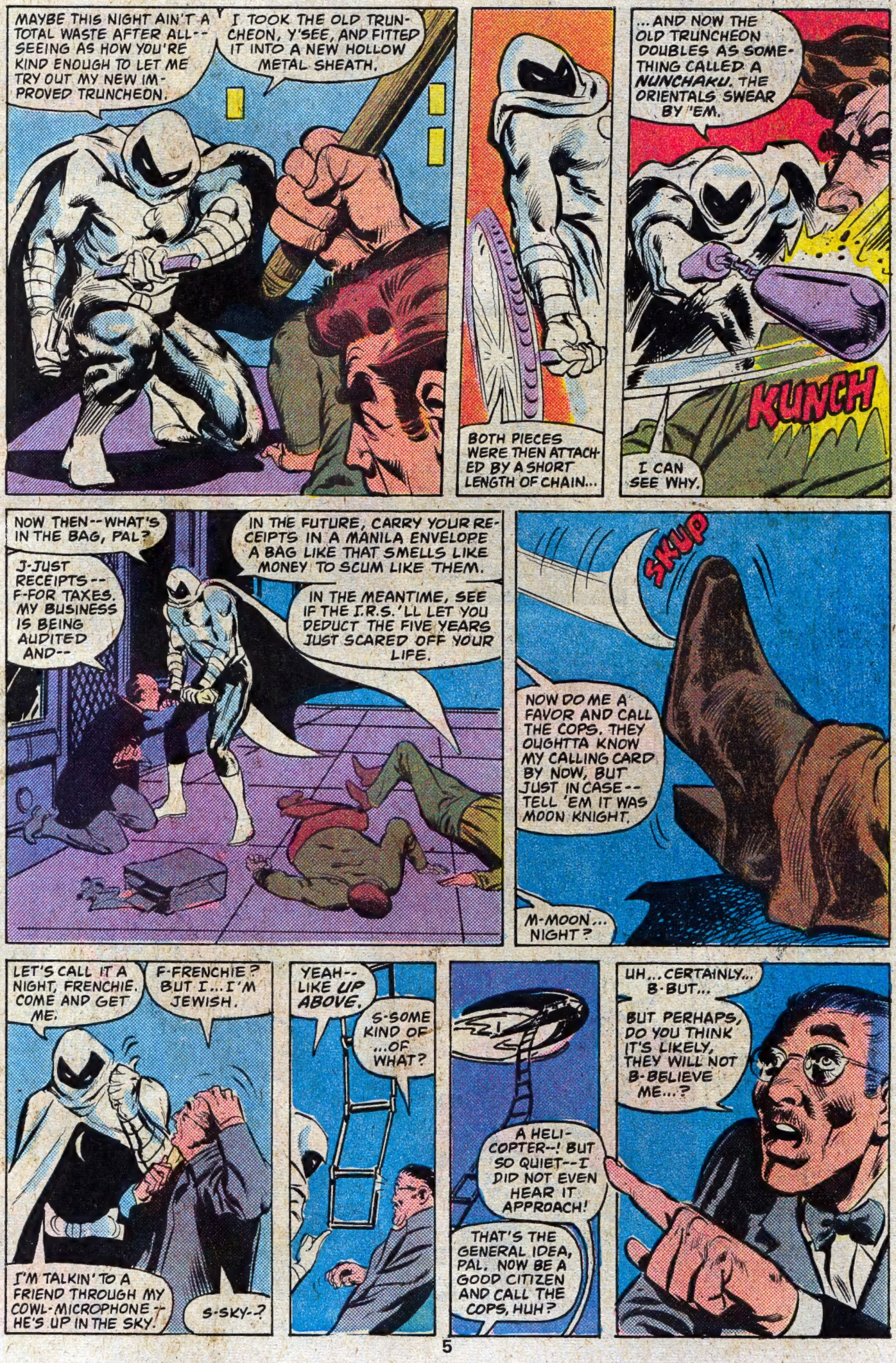
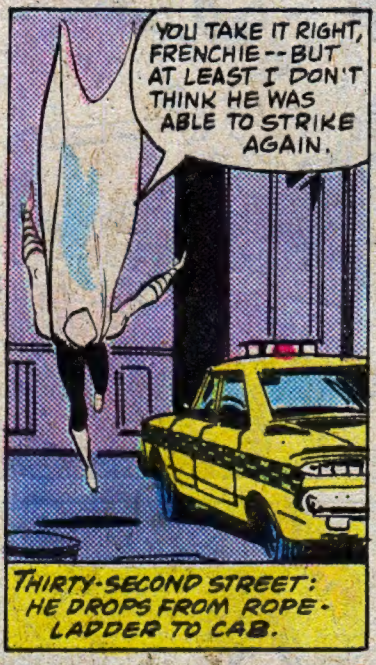

MAYBE THIS NIGHT AIN'T A TOTAL WASTE AFTER ALL--SEEING AS HOW YOU'RE KIND ENOUGH TO LET ME TRY OUT MY NEW IMPROVED TRUNCHEON.
I TOOK THE OLD TRUNCHEON, Y'SEE, AND FITTED IT INTO A NEW HOLLOW METAL SHEATH.
BOTH PIECES WERE THEN ATTACHED BY A SHORT LENGTH OF CHAIN...
...AND NOW THE OLD TRUNCHEON DOUBLES AS SOMETHING CALLED A NUNCHAKU. THE ORIENTALS SWEAR BY 'EM.
KUNCH
I CAN SEE WHY.
NOW THEN--WHAT'S IN THE BAG, PAL?
J-JUST RECEIPTS--F-FOR TAXES. MY BUSINESS IS BEING AUDITED AND--
IN THE FUTURE, CARRY YOUR RECEIPTS IN A MANILA ENVELOPE A BAG LIKE THAT SMELLS LIKE MONEY TO SCUM LIKE THEM.
IN THE MEANTIME, SEE IF THE I.R.S.'LL LET YOU DEDUCT THE FIVE YEARS JUST SCARED OFF YOUR LIFE.
SKUP
NOW DO ME A FAVOR AND CALL THE COPS. THEY OUGHTTA KNOW MY CALLING CARD BY NOW, BUT JUST IN CASE--TELL 'EM IT WAS MOON KNIGHT.
M-MOON... NIGHT?
LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT, FRENCHIE. COME AND GET ME.
F-FRENCHIE? BUT I...I'M JEWISH.
I'M TALKIN' TO A FRIEND THROUGH MY COWL-MICROPHONE--HE'S UP IN THE SKY.
S-SKY-?
YEAH--LIKE UP ABOVE.
S-SOME KIND OF ...OF WHAT?
A HELICOPTER--! BUT SO QUIET--I DID NOT EVEN HEAR IT APPROACH!
THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA, PAL. NOW BE A GOOD CITIZEN AND CALL THE COPS, HUH?
UH...CERTAINLY... B-BUT...
BUT PERHAPS, DO YOU THINK IT'S LIKELY, THEY WILL NOT B-BELIEVE ME...?

TAKE ME BACK TO LOCKLEY'S CAB, FRENCHIE--I LEFT IT OVER ON THIRTY-SECOND STREET. IT'S ALMOST DAWN...
I WANT TO CHANGE TO LOCKLEY AND GET SOME BREAKFAST BEFORE HEADIN' HOME.
OUI, MARC, AND ALSO TO PICK UP MORE INFO ON THE SLASHER MAYBE? NO LUCK TONIGHT, I TAKE IT?

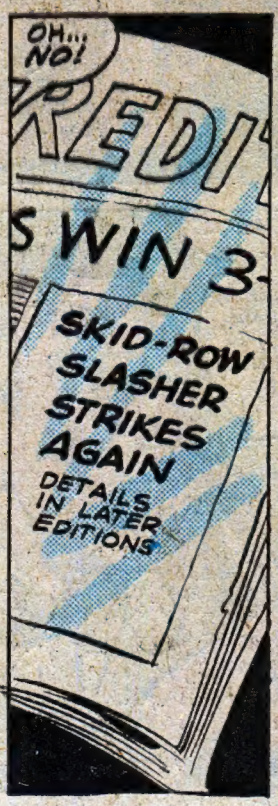

YOU TAKE IT RIGHT, FRENCHIE--BUT AT LEAST I DON'T THINK HE WAS ABLE TO STRIKE AGAIN.
THIRTY-SECOND STREET: HE DROPS FROM ROPE-LADDER TO CAB.

NOW WE PRESS THE BUTTON AND THE NEW SECRET COMPARTMENT SPRINGS OPEN. NOT AS SPACIOUS AS STEVEN GRANT'S WARDROBE--

--BUT IT SURE BEATS CHANGIN' OUTTA THE TRUNK. NOW--STILL GOT TIME TO PICK UP A PAPER AND BEAT THE RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC TO GENA'S.

HARDLY NOTICED IN THE CITY, DAWN NEVERTHELESS BREAKS.
FOUR EGGS OVER-EASY, GENA, STRIP STEAK, JUICE AND COFFEE.
MUSTA BEEN A ROUGH NIGHT, LOCKLEY.

AVERAGE, GENA, JUST AVERAGE.
HOW'S THE KIDS?
STILL BLACK, BUT NOT SO PROUD ANYMORE.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE SIXTIES?
PUT TO SLEEP BY THE SEVENTIES, AND AS FOR THE EIGHTIES, ASIDE FROM THE ECONOMY AND THE PERSIAN GULF--
--ALL SEEMS QUIET ON THE EASTERN AND WESTERN FRONTS. NOT MUCH TROUBLE OF ANY--


OH... NO!
SWIN 3-
SKID-ROW SLASHER STRIKES AGAIN
DETAILS IN LATER EDITIONS

ANOTHER ONE--ONLY A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE DIAMOND INCIDENT! I WAS RIGHT THERE AND I BLEW IT--LET ANOTHER ONE FALL!
DAILY NEWS
WHAT'S WRONG, LOCKLEY? LOOK LIKE YOU JUST SEEN A--

--GHOST?
GENA! JAKE!!
YOU TOO, CRAWLEY--? CAN'T BE MY FOOD--NEITHER ONE OF YOU HAS EVEN TASTED IT YET.

WHAT IS IT, CRAWLEY? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST LOST YOUR BEST FRIEND.
I...I DID, GENA--THE SLASHER AGAIN, JUST A FEW HOURS AGO --HE TOOK RENO EDDIE--BEST FRIEND I HAD ON THE STREETS.
I MAY INVEIGLE YOU PEOPLE INTO BELIEVING I'M A DIGNIFIED GENTLEMAN...BUT TRUTH TO TELL, GENA... JAKE... MOST OF MY FRIENDS ARE MEN OF MODEST MEANS...VERY MODEST.
I...I'M SORRY, CRAWLEY. DIDN'T MEAN TO... LET ME GET YOU A CUP OF TEA--FRESH BAG-- ON THE HOUSE.
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW. JUST THE SHOCK...
SURE, CRAWLEY, BUT TELL ME SOMETHING AND TELL THE TRUTH. HAVE YOU GOT A REGULAR PLACE TO STAY--INDOORS? DON'T WANT YOU OUT ON THE STREET WHILE THAT LUNATIC IS STILL LOOSE.
YEAH, I'VE GOT A PLACE, JAKE-- A GOOD PLACE. WELL...MAYBE IT'S NOT THE RITZ, BUT IT'S A DOMICILE WITH FOUR WALLS AND A CEILING.
ALL RIGHT, CRAWLEY, BUT GET THERE BEFORE DARK. AND STAY THERE. ANY TROUBLE, LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH GENA.
S-SURE, JAKE... AND THANKS.
HEY, LOCKLEY--WHAT ABOUT THE EGGS?
GIVE 'EM TO CRAWLEY. SUDDENLY, I AIN'T HUNGRY ANYMORE.
HITTING THE STREETS WITH A SOUR BELLY, HE USES THE CAB RADIO TO REACH FRENCHIE...
WE WON'T NEED THE CHOPPER ANYMORE, FRENCHIE--YOU CAN TAKE HER HOME TO THE MANSION.
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE AGAIN --TO STEVEN GRANT.
GENA DINER
OUI, MARC-- MEET YOU THERE.

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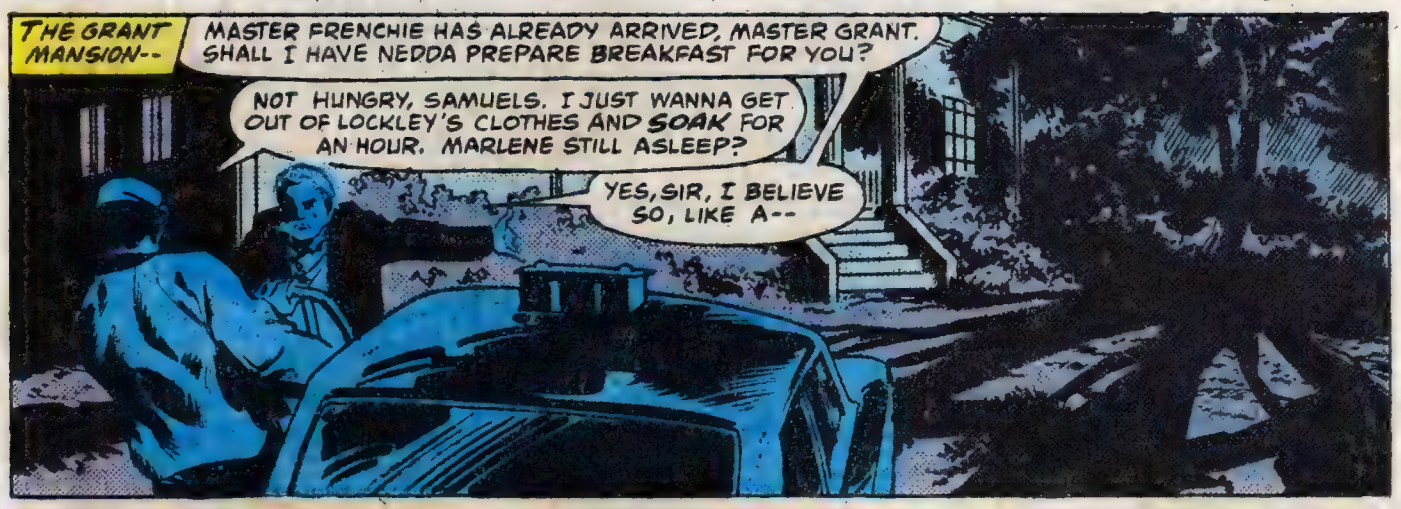
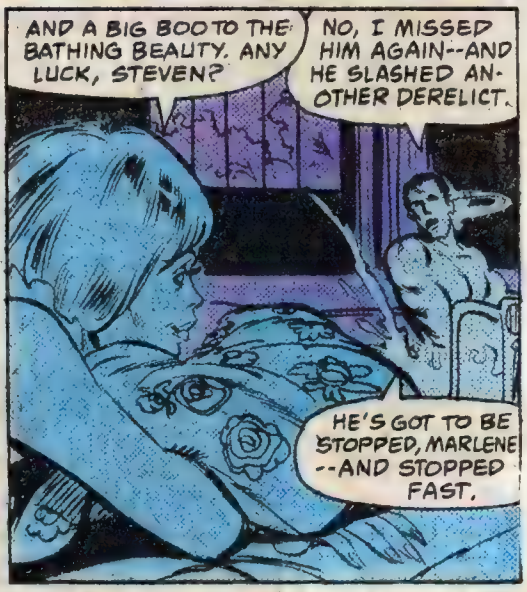
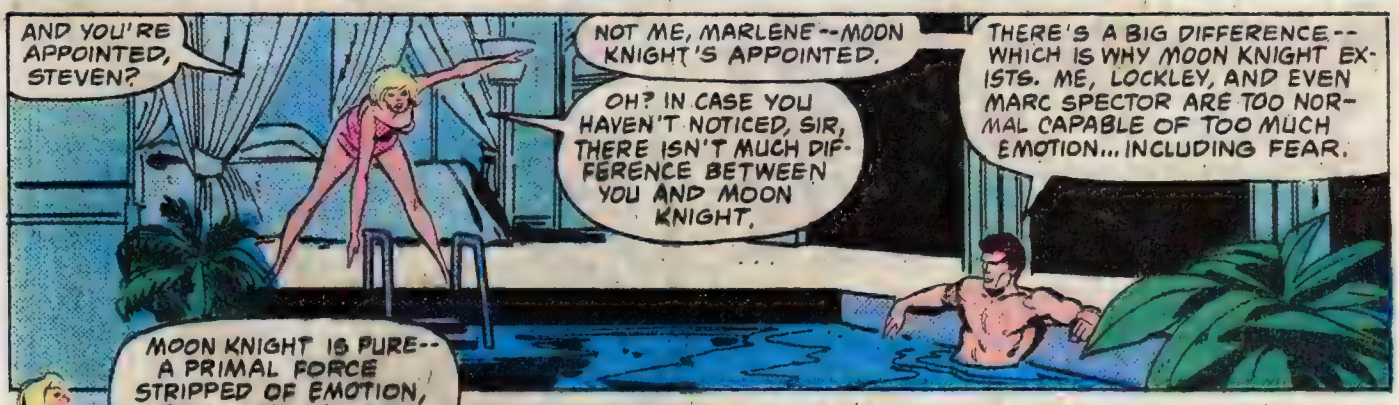
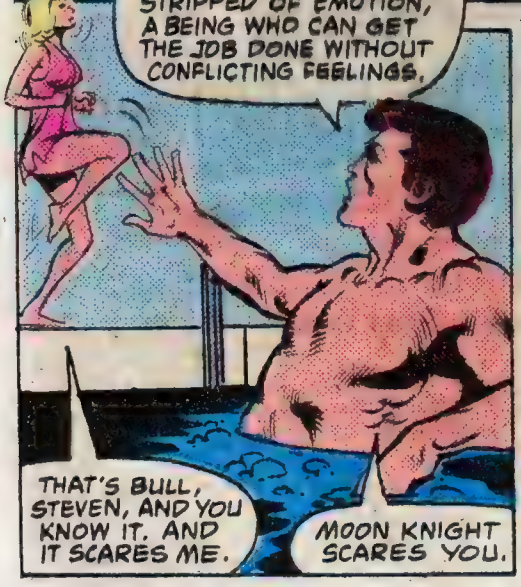
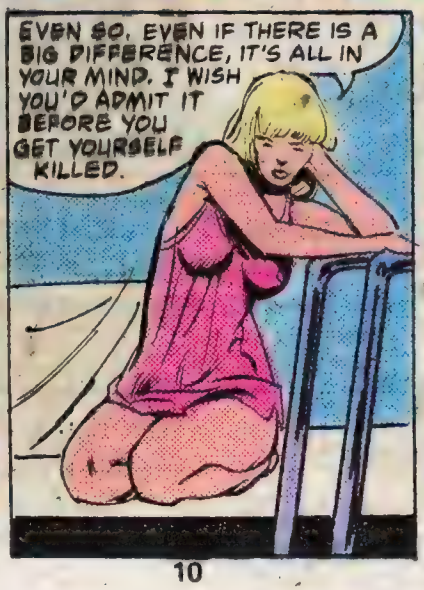

THE GRANT MANSION--
MASTER FRENCHIE HAS ALREADY ARRIVED, MASTER GRANT. SHALL I HAVE NEDDA PREPARE BREAKFAST FOR YOU?
NOT HUNGRY, SAMUELS. I JUST WANNA GET OUT OF LOCKLEY'S CLOTHES AND SOAK FOR AN HOUR. MARLENE STILL ASLEEP?
YES, SIR, I BELIEVE SO, LIKE A--

"--BABY."
MMMM...


AND A BIG BOO TO THE BATHING BEAUTY. ANY LUCK, STEVEN?
NO, I MISSED HIM AGAIN--AND HE SLASHED ANOTHER DERELICT.
HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED, MARLENE --AND STOPPED FAST.


AND YOU'RE APPOINTED, STEVEN?
NOT ME, MARLENE--MOON KNIGHT'S APPOINTED.
OH? IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, SIR, THERE ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND MOON KNIGHT.
THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE--WHICH IS WHY MOON KNIGHT EXISTS. ME, LOCKLEY, AND EVEN MARC SPECTOR ARE TOO NORMAL CAPABLE OF TOO MUCH EMOTION... INCLUDING FEAR.


MOON KNIGHT IS PURE--A PRIMAL FORCE STRIPPED OF EMOTION, A BEING WHO CAN GET THE JOB DONE WITHOUT CONFLICTING FEELINGS.
THAT'S BULL, STEVEN, AND YOU KNOW IT. AND IT SCARES ME.
MOON KNIGHT SCARES YOU.


EVEN SO. EVEN IF THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE, IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND. I WISH YOU'D ADMIT IT BEFORE YOU GET YOURSELF KILLED.

CAN'T AFFORD TO GET KILLED, MARLENE, NOT AFTER WHAT I JUST SAW. EVEN WITH MY EYES CLOSED, I CAN STILL SEE IT...
...THE FILTHY, STUBBLED, LIFE-BEATEN FACE OF A BUM...

"...A BUM WHO STILL TRIES TO GRAB THAT LAST OUNCE OF DIGNITY THAT WILL MAKE HIM A MAN...A MAN WHO JUST LOST HIS BEST FRIEND."
BOWERY
THE DAY IS TOO LONG, TOO BLEAK AND GRAY, TOO SHOT WITH MEMORY. LONG WALKS TO NOWHERE, ENDLESS SUBWAY RIDES FROM ONE LINE'S END TO THE OTHER.
A POLICE MUG SHOT TORN FROM THE FRONT PAGE OF AN ABANDONED LATER EDITION. THE FACE OF A MAN WHO LED A CLASSIC HARD LUCK LIFE AND WHO WAS TAKEN BY AN EVEN WORSE DEATH. HE LEFT NO MONEY BEHIND, OF COURSE, NONE AT ALL, LET ALONE ENOUGH FOR A DECENT BURIAL. WHY? WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO KILL RENO EDDIE? TO KILL ANY DERELICT?
WITH NO ANSWERS BY EVENING, CRAWLEY FINALLY HEADS HOME...
LIKE JAKE SAID -- BETTER GET IN-DOORS...
IF THE DAY WAS TOO LONG, THE NIGHT WILL BE TOO DARK... AND EVEN LONGER.
BUT AT THE ENTRANCE TO HIS SHABBY BUILDING...
THE LOCK ON YOUR ROOM'S BEEN CHANGED, CRAWLEY, ALL POSSESSIONS ATTACHED--UNTIL YOU COME ACROSS WITH THE LAST THREE MONTHS' RENT.
HUH--?
BUT...BUT I'VE BEEN LATER THAN THIS IN THE PAST! YOU CAN'T JUST THROW ME OUT IN THE STREET--!
I JUST DID, CRAWLEY. COME BACK WITH THE MONEY AND YOU'LL GET A KEY TO THE NEW LOCK.
AND SO HE'S FORCED TO WALK AGAIN, THIS TIME IN THE DARK...
LOUSY PONIES. WOULD'VE HAD THE RENT IF THAT NAG HADN'T POPPED A TENDON SIX LENGTHS FROM THE--
JEREMIAH--IS THAT YOU?
IT'S ME, CRAWLEY. YOU HEAR ABOUT LAST NIGHT AND RENO EDDIE?
I HEARD, JEREMIAH. I HEARD. EDDIE MAKES FIVE NOW --FIVE MUTUAL AC-QUAINTANCES... GONE, JEREMIAH, GONE.

YEAH, GETTIN' SO THERE AIN'T MANY OF THE OLD BOYS LEFT. SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, I BETTER GET BACK TO MY ROOM, CRAWLEY. IT'S ALREADY DARK AND I DON'T WANNA BE SHARIN' THE STREETS WITH NO MANIAC.
FUNNY--ALL THESE YEARS REAL FOLK BEEN AFRAID TO GO OUT AT NIGHT FOR FEAR OF TRIPPIN' OVER MUGGERS ON EVERY CORNER AND WE NEVER HAD TO WORRY.
WHO'D MUG A BUM? A BUM'S GOT NOTHIN' WORTH NOTHIN' TO NOBODY.
AND NOW THERE'S A BOGEYMAN OUT THERE CUTTIN' NOTHIN' BUT BUMS. GUESS IT HADDA CATCH UP TO US SOMETIME, CRAWLEY. YES-SIR, CAN'T PRESS YOUR LUCK THESE NIGHTS.
AND YOU OUGHTTA GET HOME TOO, HEAR?
I...I CAN'T, JEREMIAH. I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT, BUT I...I'VE BEEN... WELL, TEMPORARILY DISPLACED. DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE ROOM FOR ME AT YOUR CRIB-- JUST THIS ONE NIGHT, JEREMIAH?
HUH? UH... WELL...
I WOULD, CRAWLEY, YOU KNOW I WOULD, BUT THE FACT IS I ALREADY GOT THREE DUDES STAYIN' WITH ME. WE CAN'T HARDLY MOVE IN THAT OLE ROOM. IT'S THE SAME STORY EVERYWHERE...
YEAH, SURE. THANKS ANYWAY, JEREMIAH.
SAME OLD STORY, SAME OLD STORY EVERYWH--
--UNH! WHAT THE--?!
NO. OH... NO...!
HELP! MURDER--!!
HELLLP!!

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ALL NEW!
Superman! Batman & Robin! Wonder Woman! The SUPER FRIENDS battle tough new challengers every week!
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Then see me and the HAPPY DAYS GANG travel to different places in a time machine! It really gets wild!
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NEW SHOW!
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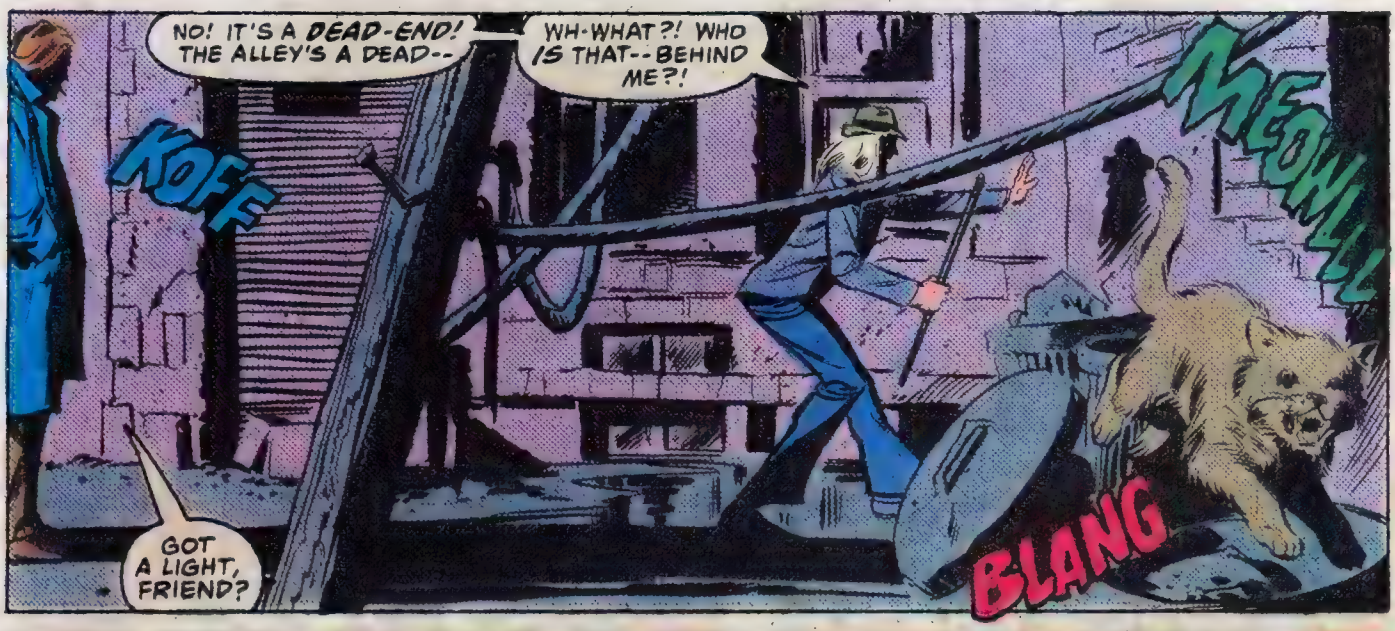
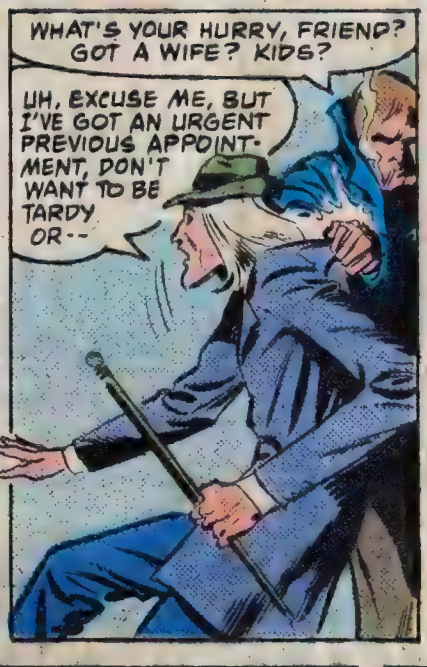
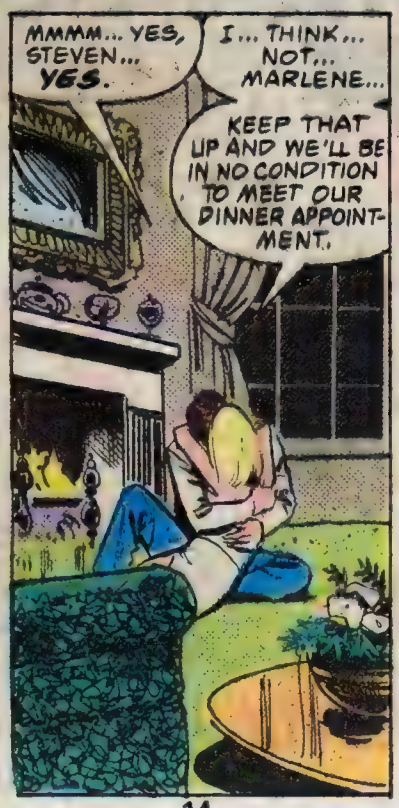

NO! IT'S A DEAD-END! THE ALLEY'S A DEAD--
WH-WHAT?! WHO IS THAT--BEHIND ME?!
KOFF
MEOWLL
GOT A LIGHT, FRIEND?
BLANG

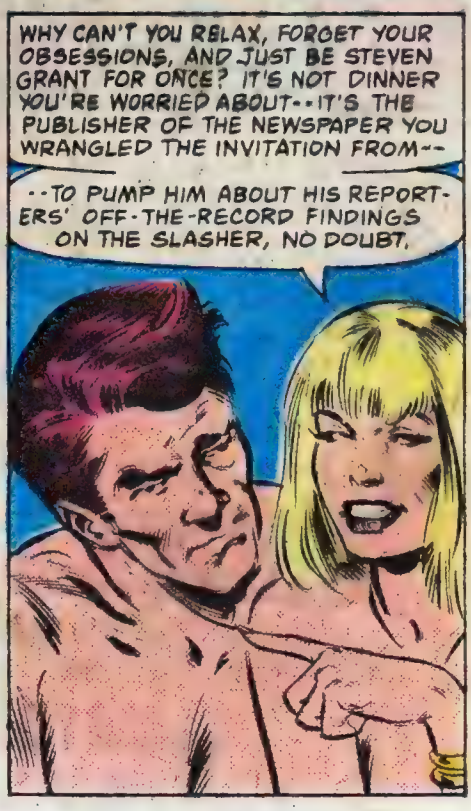
UH...YEAH... S-SURE. I GOT A LIGHT. HERE.
THANKS, FRIEND. WHERE YOU FROM?
THE FACE IS FAMILIAR, SOMEHOW. MAYBE IT'S NOT THE SLASHER. MAYBE IT'S JUST ANOTHER GUY FROM THE STREETS...

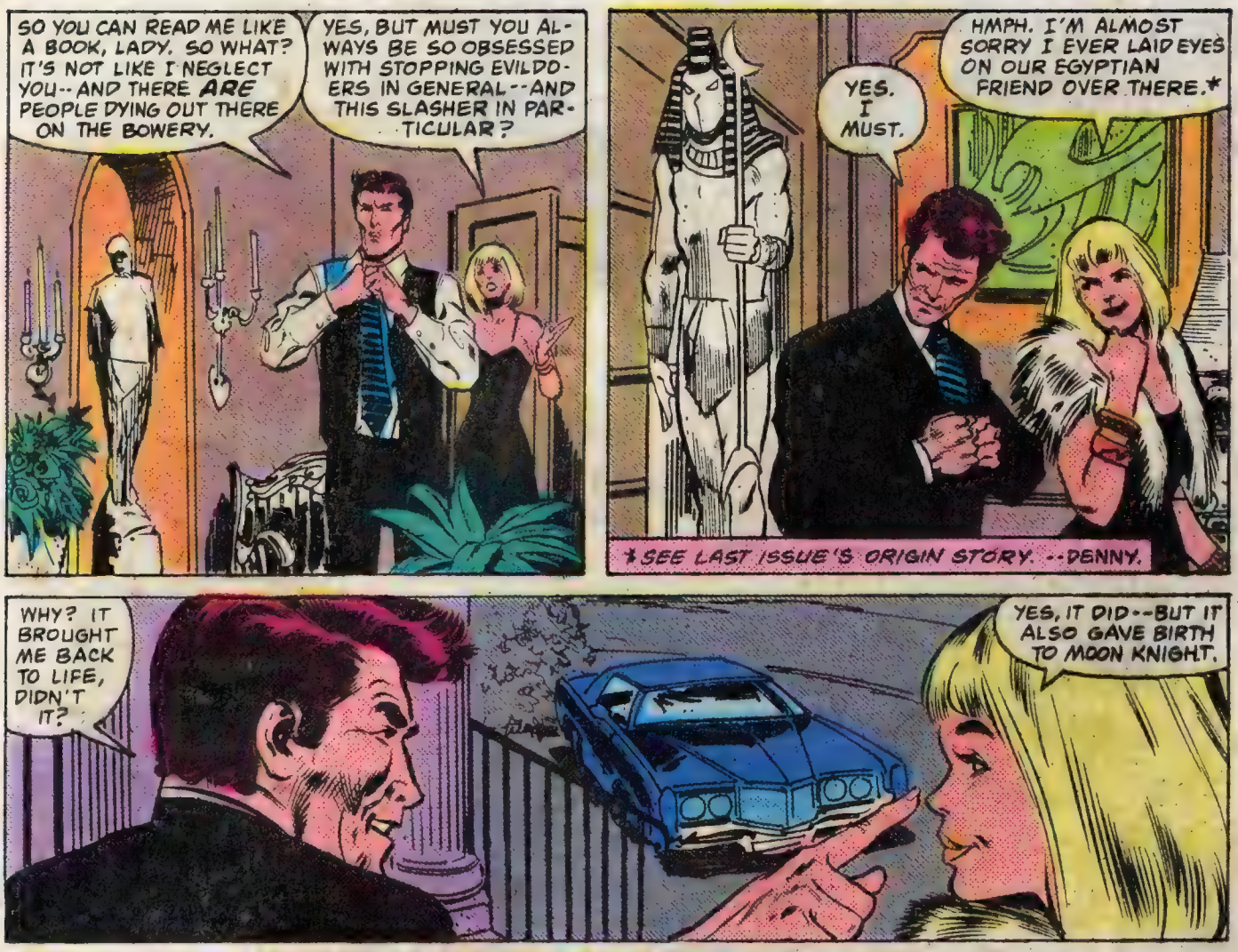

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, FRIEND? GOT A WIFE? KIDS?
UH, EXCUSE ME, BUT I'VE GOT AN URGENT PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT, DON'T WANT TO BE TARDY OR--

NO! YOU AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY! I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' TOO LONG!

BUT YOU'RE NOT IT! YOU'RE JUST A LIAR--ANOTHER LOUSY STINKIN' LIAR!!
NOOOO!!

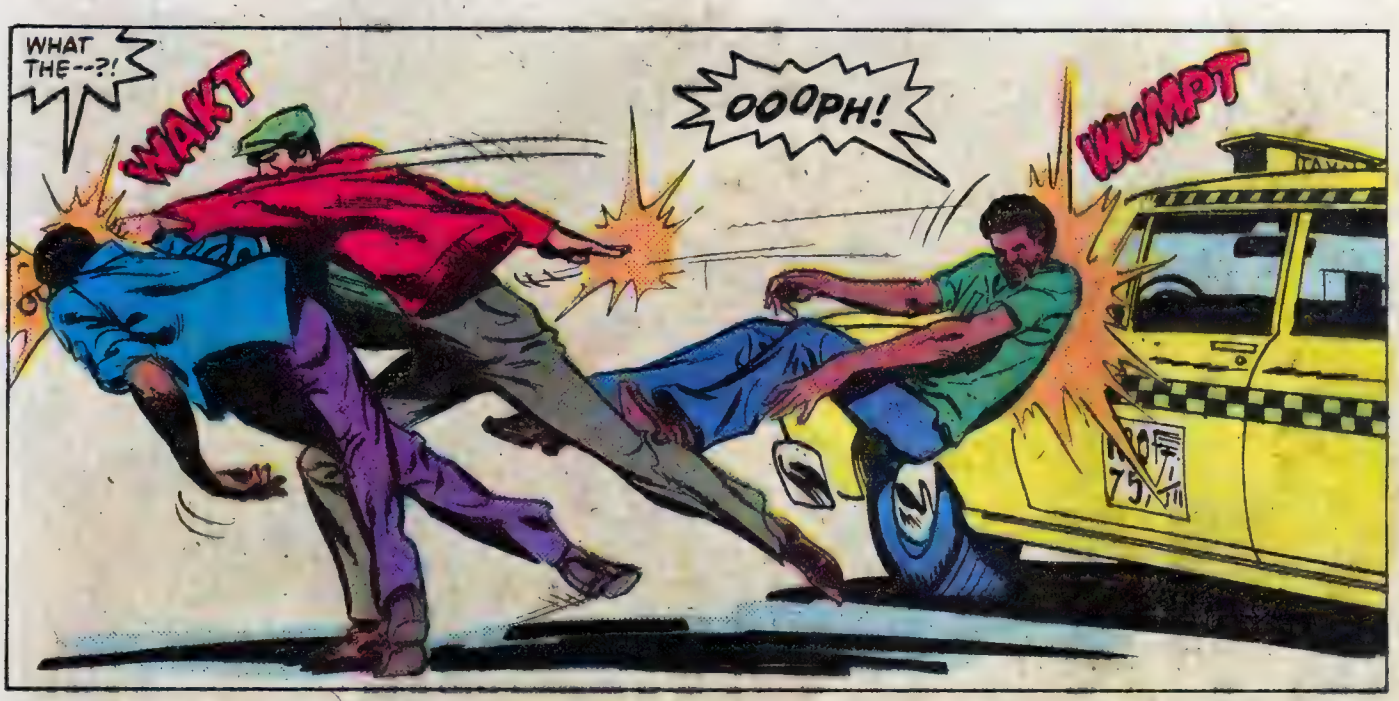

MMMM... YES, STEVEN... YES.
I... THINK... NOT... MARLENE...
KEEP THAT UP AND WE'LL BE IN NO CONDITION TO MEET OUR DINNER APPOINTMENT.

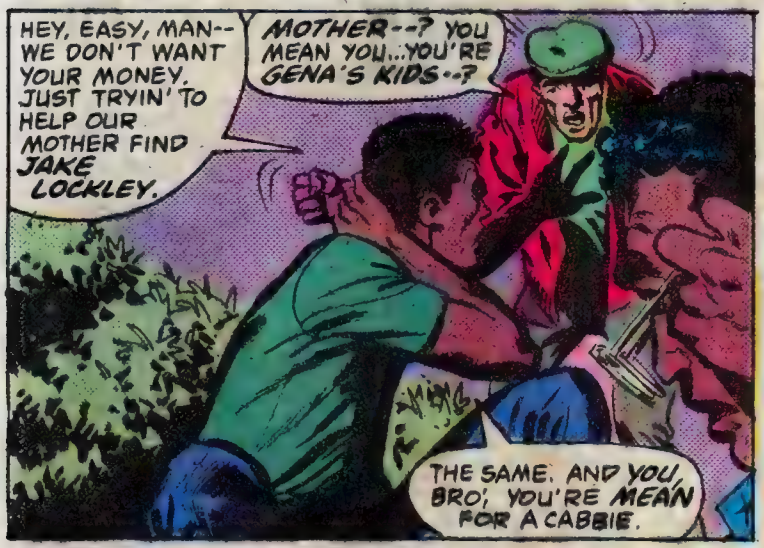

WHY CAN'T YOU RELAX, FORGET YOUR OBSESSIONS, AND JUST BE STEVEN GRANT FOR ONCE? IT'S NOT DINNER YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT--IT'S THE PUBLISHER OF THE NEWSPAPER YOU WRANGLED THE INVITATION FROM--
--TO PUMP HIM ABOUT HIS REPORTERS' OFF-THE-RECORD FINDINGS ON THE SLASHER, NO DOUBT.

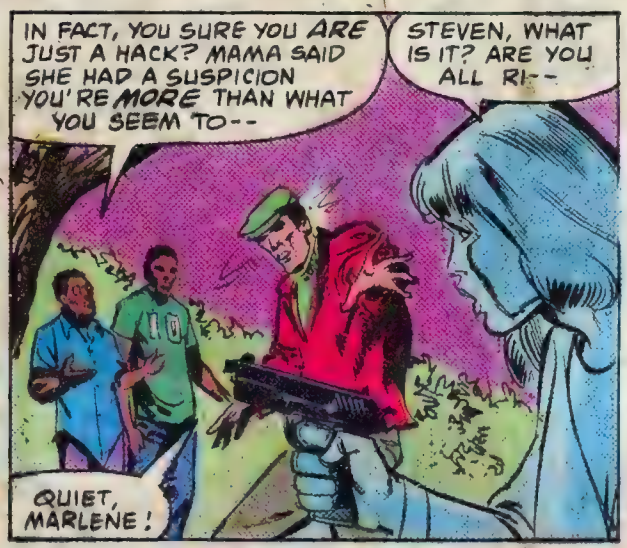

SO YOU CAN READ ME LIKE A BOOK, LADY. SO WHAT? IT'S NOT LIKE I NEGLECT YOU--AND THERE ARE PEOPLE DYING OUT THERE ON THE BOWERY.
YES, BUT MUST YOU ALWAYS BE SO OBSESSED WITH STOPPING EVILDOERS IN GENERAL--AND THIS SLASHER IN PARTICULAR?
YES. I MUST.
HMPH. I'M ALMOST SORRY I EVER LAID EYES ON OUR EGYPTIAN FRIEND OVER THERE.*
*SEE LAST ISSUE'S ORIGIN STORY. --DENNY.
WHY? IT BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE, DIDN'T IT?
YES, IT DID--BUT IT ALSO GAVE BIRTH TO MOON KNIGHT.
AT THAT MOMENT...
AND SO THE HARD-WORKIN' LADY SAYS TO THE EMPTY ROOM: ANOTHER NIGHT'S WORK DONE, TIME TO LOCK THE DOOR AND DOUSE THE LIGHTS.
BUT AS SOON AS THE LIGHTS ARE DOUSED...
WE'RE CLOSED!
BAM BAM BAM
I SAID WE'RE--
KRASHH
--CLOSED.
OH NO--? STAY AWAY FROM ME! STAY--
WH-WHAT...?
THE LIGHTS--GOTTA TURN THE LIGHTS ON!

CRAWLEY! MY GOD--I ALMOST STABBED YOU!
THE SLASHER, GENA--WOULDA GOT ME IF SOMEONE HADN'T COME ALONG... TO SCARE HIM AWAY... BUT I--
EASY, CRAWLEY. I'LL CALL THE POLICE--GET AN AMBULANCE.
TWO HOURS LATER...
HOW IS HE, DOCTOR?
NASTY SLASHES ON HIS FOREARMS...
...BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE, WOULD YOU, UH, KNOW IF HE CARRIES HOSPITALIZATION?
I SINCERELY DOUBT IT, DOCTOR--BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET YOUR BLOOD MONEY. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M SURE YOU'RE A VERY BUSY MAN--
--AND I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT KIND OF "CARE" WE'RE BUYING.
SOON--
I TELL YOU HIS FACE WAS FAMILIAR, GENA... AS IF I'D SEEN HIM BEFORE... MAYBE EVEN KNEW HIM SOMEHOW...
YOU MEAN YOU MIGHT'VE MET THE KILLER ON THE STREETS BEFORE THIS, CRAWLEY?
LORD, YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN, AND I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU MOAN ABOUT THE PONIES, NOW YOU JUST REST YOURSELF--I'LL SPEAK TO THE POLICE.
HE RECOGNIZED THE SLASHER'S FACE--HE CAN FINGER HIM.
WELL, MAYBE WE'LL SEND SOME MUG-BOOKS DOWN FOR HIM TO LOOK AT. COME ON, ACE--GOT A LONG NIGHT AHEAD OF US.
WAIT JUST A MINUTE, "ACE"! IS THAT ALL--? "MAYBE" YOU'LL SEND SOME MUG-BOOKS?
FACE IT, HONEY, IT AIN'T EXACTLY TOP PRIORITY. WHEN A RICH DUDE GETS OFFED, THEY CALL OUT THE MARINES--BUT WHEN IT'S JUST A BUNCH O' BUMS...
THAT "BUM" IS A MAN--A HUMAN BEING JUST LIKE YOU OR ME!
HEY, EASE UP, SISTER. WHAT'S THE DEAL? HE A FRIEND OR SOMETHIN'?
YOU GOT IT, "ACE"!
OHHH... I SEE. THAT AIN'T A NURSE'S UNIFORM--YOU'RE A WAITRESS OR SOMETHIN'. BUT THE FACTS STILL APPLY. EVEN JACK THE RIPPER GOT MORE HEAT THAN THE SLASHER, AN' SAUCY JACK ONLY HIT ON HOOKERS--BUT BUMS, THEY'RE EVEN LOWER.
NO ONE CARES ABOUT BUMS. IF ANYONE DID, THEY WOULDN'T BE BUMS.

AND AS MUCH AS YOU COPS CARE, THEY'RE GONNA STAY BUMS. FOREVER.
LOOK, IF YOU CARE SO MUCH, HIRE YOURSELF A PRIVATE DETECTIVE. US, WE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO ATTEND--LIKE SADAT FLYING IN TOMORROW.
BY THE WAY, WHATCHA DOIN' TOMORROW NIGHT, FOXY LADY?
KICKIN' IN YOUR UGLY FACE IF YOU SO MUCH AS COME NEAR ME, "ACE"!
SUIT YOURSELF, WOMAN.
PRIVATE DETECTIVE, HUH?
SURE CAN'T AFFORD THAT NO WAY... BUT MAYBE...
LATE THE NEXT AFTERNOON...
RIGHT HERE OKAY, MA'AM?
YES, FINE.
SUCH A PLEASURE TO MEET A POLITE DRIVER THESE DAYS.
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BECOME OF NEW YORK.
THAT HIM, RAY?
MATCHES THE DESCRIPTION, RICKY--BUT HE SURE DON'T SEEM LIKE "SOMETHIN' MORE THAN A HACK".
SEEMS PLAIN AS GLASS TO ME.
I READ YOU, BRO'--BUT WE BETTER FOLLOW HIM TILL WE CAN MAKE SURE.
DUSK AT GRANT MANSION...
NOT MUCH INFO ON THE STREETS THESE DAYS, BUT BEFORE CHANGING TO GRANT--
--I BETTER MAKE NOTES ON WHAT LITTLE I PICKED UP.
MARLENE'LL HAVE A FIT IF GRANT DEVOTES ANY MORE TIME TO MOON KNIGHT'S PROBLEMS, AND IF SHE--
HEY, MAN, ARE YOU--


WHAT THE--?!
WAKT
OOOPH!
WUMPT


HEY, EASY, MAN-- WE DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY. JUST TRYIN' TO HELP OUR MOTHER FIND JAKE LOCKLEY.
MOTHER--? YOU MEAN YOU...YOU'RE GENA'S KIDS--?
THE SAME. AND YOU, BRO', YOU'RE MEAN FOR A CABBIE.


IN FACT, YOU SURE YOU ARE JUST A HACK? MAMA SAID SHE HAD A SUSPICION YOU'RE MORE THAN WHAT YOU SEEM TO--
STEVEN, WHAT IS IT? ARE YOU ALL RI--
QUIET, MARLENE!

"STEVEN"--? THEN YOU ARE MORE THAN YOU SEEM. AND YOU DIDN'T COME OUT HERE TO PICK UP NO FARE-- YOU LIVE HERE.
UH, OH. SORRY, STEVEN.
THE CHARADE WAS WEARIN' THIN ON GENA ANYWAY.
INTO THE HOUSE, MEN. TIME TO INVITE YOUR MAMA AND CRAWLEY OVER FOR TEA.

AND SO--
BY SHAKESPEARE'S SILENT MUSE, JAKE, WE KNEW YOU WERE MORE THAN A CABBIE, BUT WE NEVER SUSPECTED THIS!
WOW.
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST AN UNDERCOVER COP.

CRAWLEY, YOU CLAIM THE SLASHER'S FACE IS FAMILIAR. THAT'S MY ONLY LEAD--THE ONLY HELP I'VE GOTTEN. SO I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION--AND I DON'T KNOW WHY I'VE HELD IT BACK SO LONG.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JAKE?
I COULD USE SOME HELP OUT IN THE TRENCHES--I GUESS YOU'D CALL THEM AGENTS.

OTHER THAN LOCKLEY AND GRANT, THIS IS WHO I REALLY AM.
STEVEN, I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--
VZHIT
YOU--? MOON KNIGHT?!
HOOEEE, LOCKLEY, YOU'RE JUST FULL O' SURPRISES!
HE'S HIM?!
WELL? DO YOU WANT THE JOBS?
I WANT NO HANDOUTS, LOCKLEY. BESIDES, I GOT THE DINER. BUT MY BOYS, MAYBE THEY COULD HELP YOU, STRICTLY FREELANCE AFTER SCHOOL--
--CASH ONLY FOR SERVICES RENDERED, AND ONLY IF IT AIN'T DANGEROUS.
AWW, MAMA...
GOOD ENOUGH. HOW ABOUT YOU, CRAWLEY?
S-SURE, JAKE--OR STEVE--ALWAYS WANTED TO EARN MY WAY. I DID IT TOO--LONG TIME AGO...AND MAYBE IT'S TIME I STARTED AGAIN...
WHY DON'T YOU TELL US ABOUT IT, CRAWLEY? GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST.
YES, PERHAPS I SHOULD. PERHAPS I'VE KEPT THE CORK IN THE BOTTLE LONG ENOUGH...
"IT STARTED WHEN I WAS RESPECTABLE...
"...MARRIED, MORTGAGE ON THE HOUSE... YOU KNOW.
"ONE PROBLEM--I WAS A TEXTBOOK SALESMAN...
NEWARK NEXT LEFT E. ORANGE
"...ON THE ROAD WITH MY SAMPLES ALL THE TIME.
"IT GETS LONELY.
BAR
MILK
"IF YOU DON'T CHASE WOMEN, YOU HIT THE BOTTLE.
"SALES STARTED SLIDING. THE BANK FORECLOSED.
E-Z Movers
"WE MOVED BACK TO THE CITY.
"THE RENT WAS CHEAPER BUT THE BOOZE COST THE SAME.
"MY WIFE GOT PREGNANT. WE FOUGHT ABOUT THE DRINKING.
"WHEN THE BABY CAME, WE FOUGHT ABOUT HIM. HE CRIED ALL THE TIME.

LET DOCTOR DOOM TELL YOU HOW TO...

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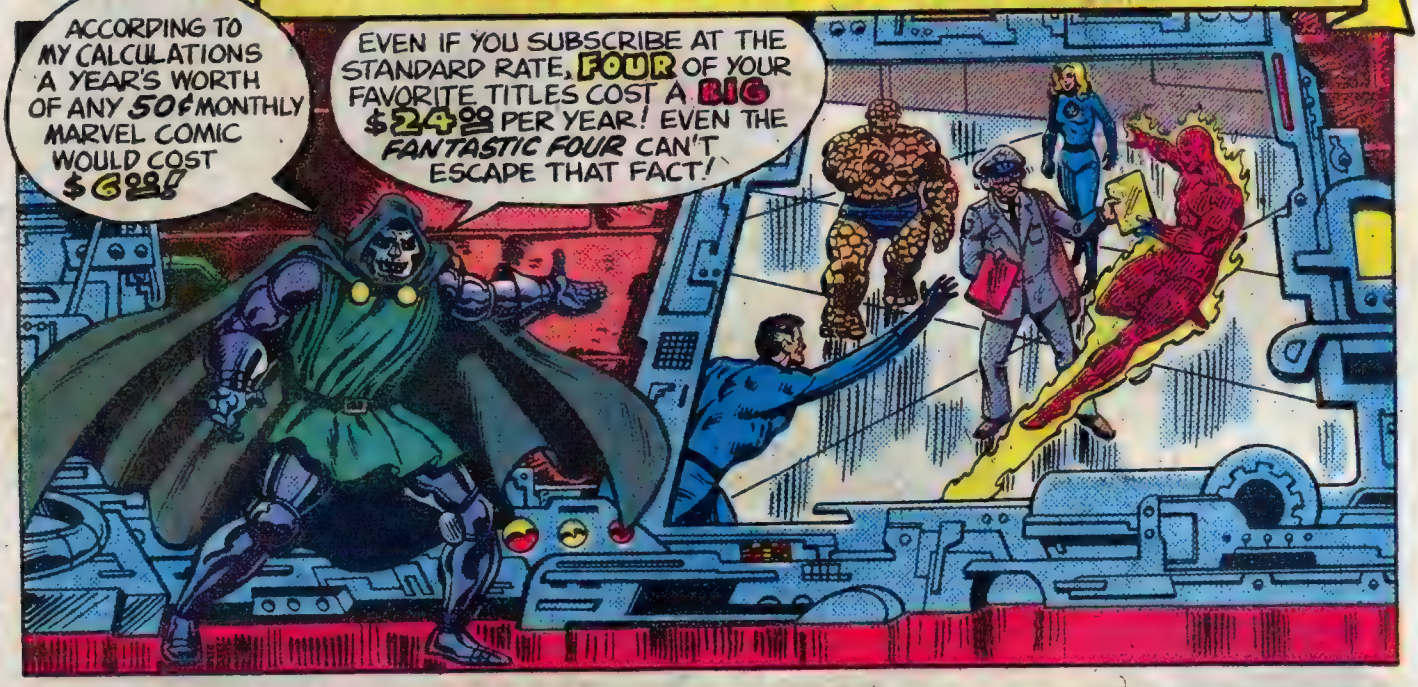

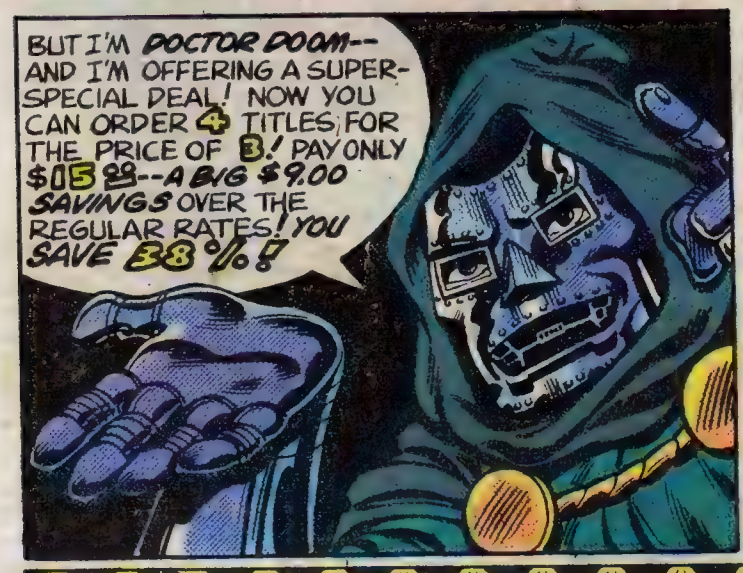

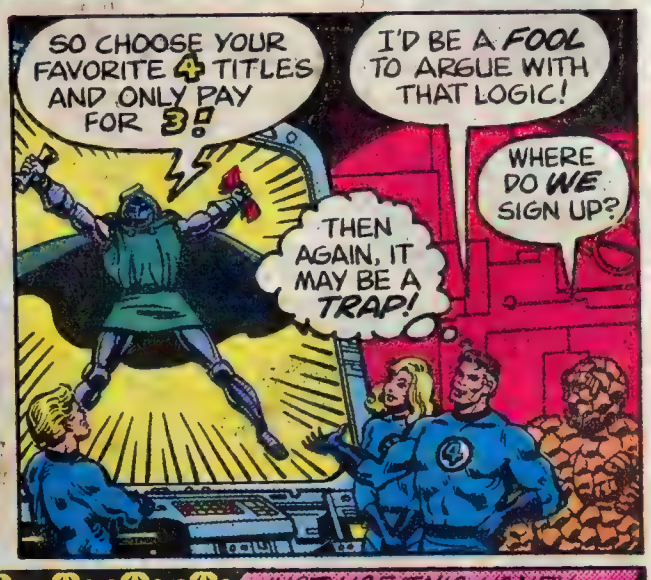

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AUG-80

"FOUR YEARS LATER, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF THE MAN I ONCE WAS. SHE LEFT. WITH THE KID.
"BUT I DON'T BLAME HER.
SLAM
"SHE SLAMMED THE DOOR ON A STRANGER.
I...I CAME TO MANHATTAN ...DID A NOSEDIVE INTO THE BOWERY... AND NOW, TWENTY YEARS LATER...
WELL, LIKE I SAID ...MAYBE IT'S TIME I GOT BACK ON THE MERRY-GO-ROUND. BE NICE TO GET A NICE PLACE, NEW CLOTHES FOR A CHANGE ...YOU KNOW.
A SILENCE OF SIX HEARTBEATS...
THEN--
SURE, CRAWLEY. BUT TO DO ME ANY GOOD, YOU REALIZE YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP THOSE CLOTHES...
OF COURSE, JAKE. I'VE GOT TO CONTINUE PLAYING THE ROLE OF A DERELICT--
--JUST LIKE YOU PLAY THE PART OF A CABBIE.
ALL RIGHT.
THE SLASHER'S OUR FIRST CASE TOGETHER. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE ALIVE WHO'S GOTTEN A GOOD LOOK AT HIM, CRAWLEY. WITH LUCK, WORKING TOGETHER, AND BEFORE ANOTHER MAN FILLS THE STREET WITH HIS BLOOD--
--WE'LL NAIL THE SLASHER FOR GOOD.
THAT NIGHT--
I'M SORRY, STEVEN. UNTIL I HEARD CRAWLEY'S STORY, I...I DIDN'T THINK OF THE KILLINGS AS BEING PERSONAL. BUT NOW I--
I JUST WANT TO SAY...GET HIM, STEVEN. GET THE SLASHER.
A WEEK LATER...
TELEPHON
STILL NO DICE, JAKE--AND THREE MORE SLAYINGS.
THEN IT'S TIME FOR NEW TACTICS, CRAWLEY.
DANGEROUS ONES. TONIGHT.
THEN--
I BID THEE A FOND ADIEU, MY GOOD MAN.
SNZZZ

709
KEEP SLEEPIN', BOY, JUST KEEP SLEEPIN'-- THIS'LL ONLY TAKE A SEC--
SWOKKT
E-EASY, MISTER--JUST TRYIN' TA ROLL YA FOR SOME COFFEE-COIN, THAT'S ALL! I AIN'T THE SLASHER OR NOTHIN'--HONEST! I'M JUST--
YAAHHH
THAT CAME FROM THE ALLEY!
OH MY GOD-- CRAWLEY!!
BUT-- I SURPRISED HIM, JAKE, JUST AS HE WAS DOING IT --BUT THIS POOR GUY LOOKS LIKE A GONER ANYWAY! HE WENT DOWN THE ALLEY! HURRY, JAKE, --NAIL HIM!
GET THE COPS, CRAWLEY--
"--AND AN AMBULANCE TOO, 'CUZ EVEN IF THAT POOR SLOB DOESN'T NEED ONE--
"--BEFORE THIS CHASE IS OVER, SOMEONE WILL!"
KLASH

NO! I'VE GOT TO FIND IT!!
I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL... REAP YOU!!
SHOK!
IT IS THE MOST EMOTIONALLY OBSESSED PUNCH HE HAS EVER THROWN.
YOU'RE A WITNESS, RIGHT?
INDUBITABLY, SIR. I WITNESSED HIM SLASH THAT UNFORTUNATE DEGENERATE IN THE ALLEY--AND FURTHERMORE, HE'S THE SAME MISCREANT WHO SLASHED ME JUST A WEEK PAST.
ALL RIGHT, YOU-- MOVE ALONG--INTO THE MEAT WAGON.
BUT WHY? I DIDN'T FIND IT YET...!
POLICE
POLICE DEPT.
MOVE!
AND THEN YOU SAW THIS MOON KNIGHT CHARACTER SUBDUE HIM?
CORRECT, OFFICER.
LUCKY FOR YOU THE WEIRDO WAS AROUND, I GUESS, ALL RIGHT...
"...WE'LL SEE YOU AS A WITNESS IN COURT."
GOOD WORK, CRAWLEY.
POLICE
HUH--?! JAKE-- YOU'VE BEEN THERE ALL ALONG--?!
AND I'LL BE IN COURT TOO, CRAWLEY--AS STEVEN GRANT.
SEE YOU THEN.

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GREAT WHOPPERS

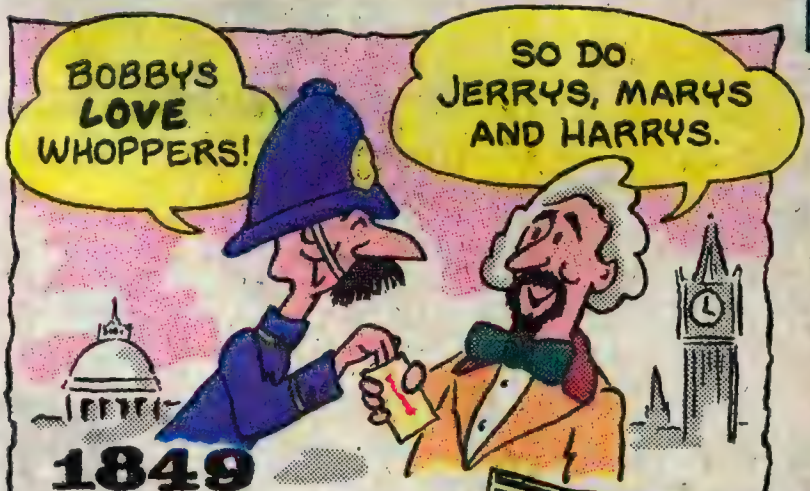
FROM HISTORY

1830

COUNT DRACULA, AFTER TRYING **WHOPPERS** FOR A TREAT IN A DIFFERENT VEIN, SWITCHED TO THE MALTED MILK DELIGHTS FOR GOOD AND BECAME A REAL SWEET GUY... FOR A TRANSYLVANIAN.

1352

WHEN THE BOW AND ARROW HERO KNOWN AS WILLIAM TELL SHOT A WHOPPERS OFF HIS SON'S HEAD HE STUNNED THE CROWD BY CREATING THE CENTER-PART HAIR DO. IT WAS ANOTHER TALL TALE FOR TELL.



1849

AUTHOR CHARLES DICKENS WROTE HIS NOVEL "DAVID WHOPPERFIELD" WHILE ON VACATION IN THE ENGLISH TOWN OF CRUNCHING-ON-WHOPPERS. HE WAS A DICKENS OF A CANDY LOVER.

1900

FERDINAND VON ZEPPELIN WAS SO UP IN THE CLOUDS OVER THE GREAT TASTE OF WHOPPERS MALTED MILK CANDY THAT HE INVENTED THE LIGHTER-THAN-AIR CRAFT WHICH CAME TO BE NAMED FOR HIM. IT WAS A VERY GOODYEAR FOR THE OLD GERMAN WINDBAG.

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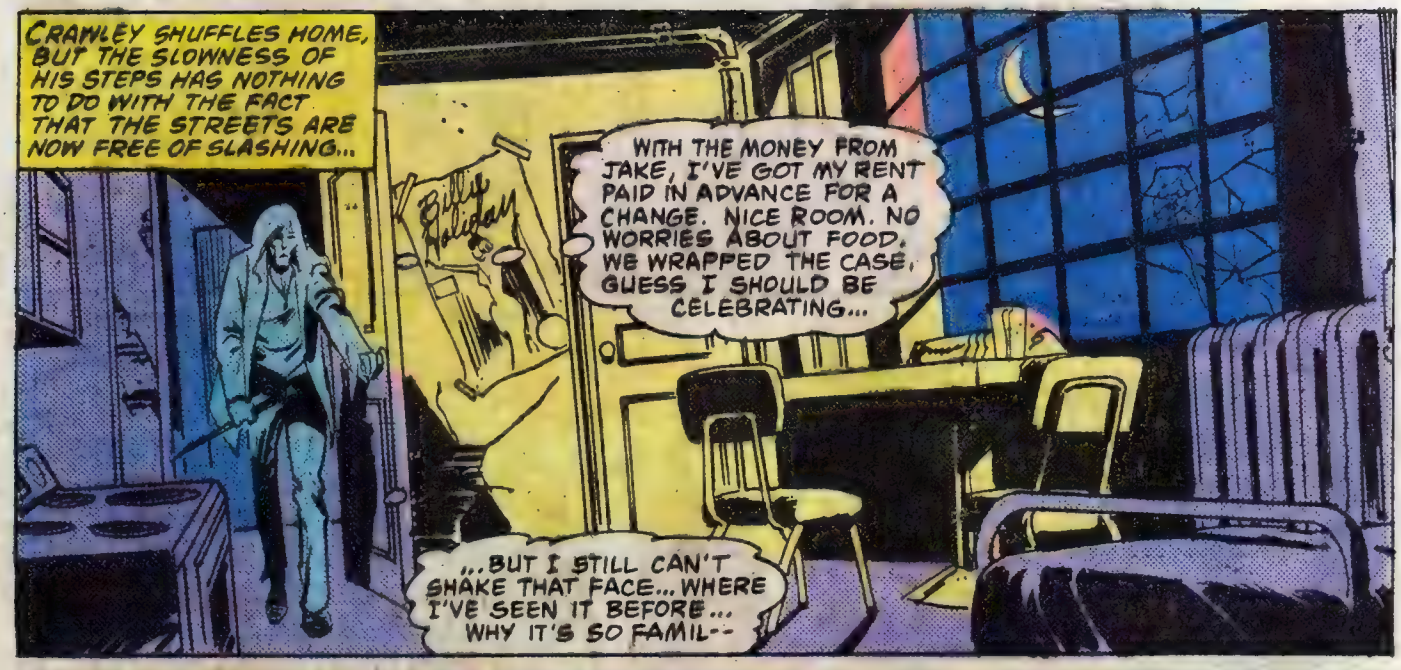
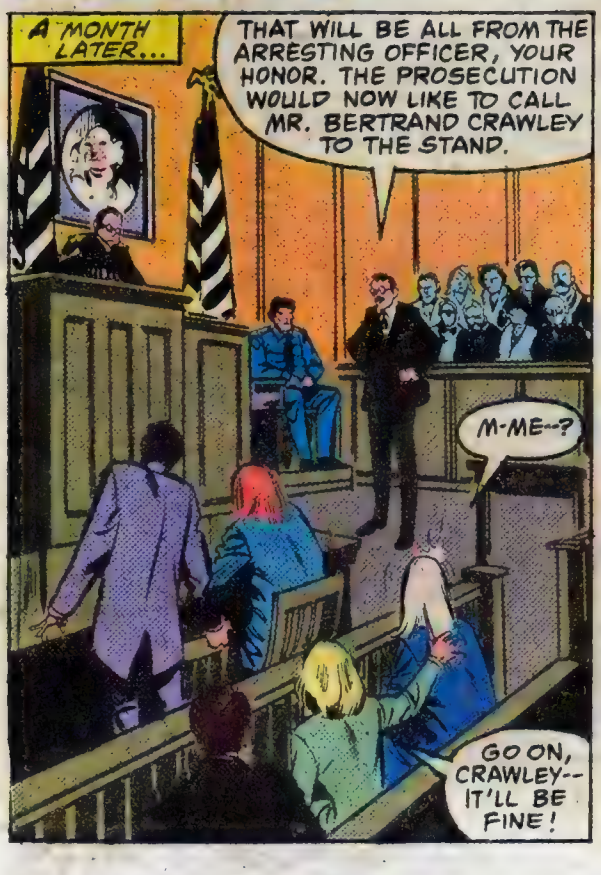
YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A WHOPPER WHEN YOU HEAR ONE CRUNCH!


CRAWLEY SHUFFLES HOME, BUT THE SLOWNESS OF HIS STEPS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT THE STREETS ARE NOW FREE OF SLASHING...
WITH THE MONEY FROM JAKE, I'VE GOT MY RENT PAID IN ADVANCE FOR A CHANGE. NICE ROOM. NO WORRIES ABOUT FOOD. WE WRAPPED THE CASE, GUESS I SHOULD BE CELEBRATING...
...BUT I STILL CAN'T SHAKE THAT FACE... WHERE I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE... WHY IT'S SO FAMIL--

QUALITY
Cigars

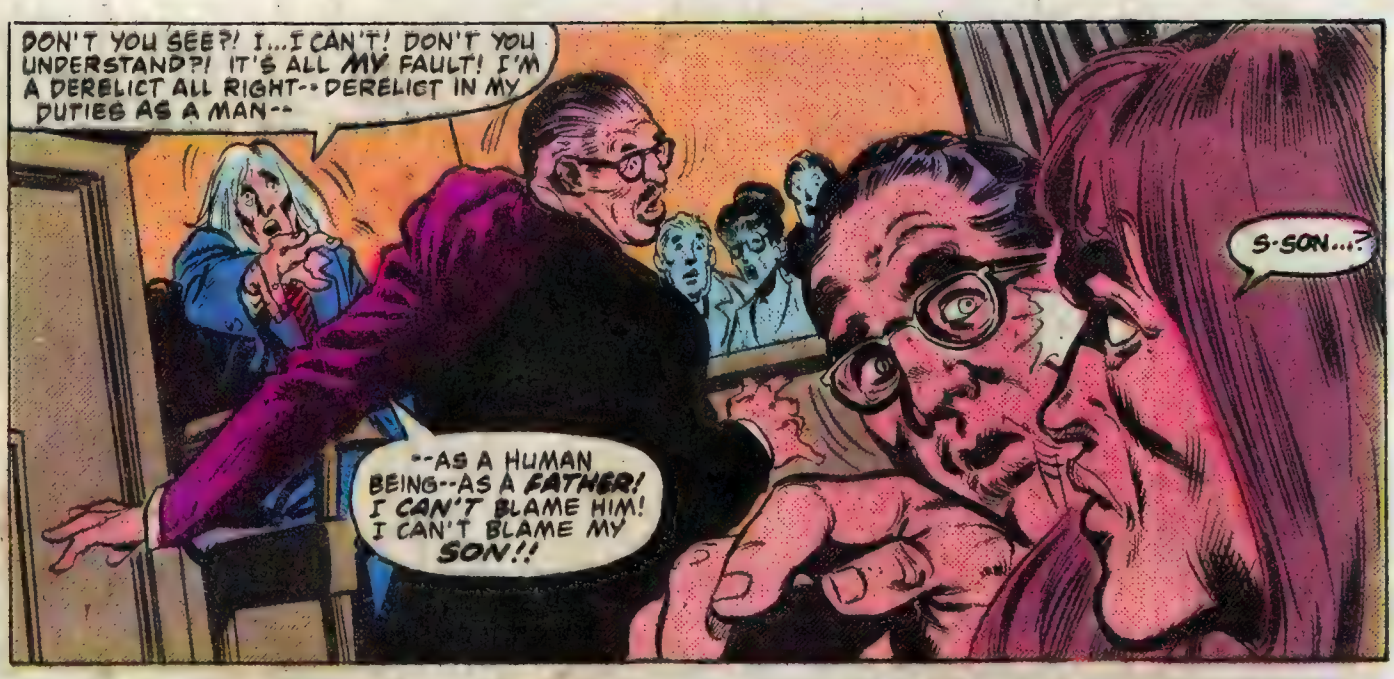
THE TEARS, TOO, COME SLOWLY.


A MONTH LATER...
THAT WILL BE ALL FROM THE ARRESTING OFFICER, YOUR HONOR. THE PROSECUTION WOULD NOW LIKE TO CALL MR. BERTRAND CRAWLEY TO THE STAND.
M-ME--?
GO ON, CRAWLEY-- IT'LL BE FINE!

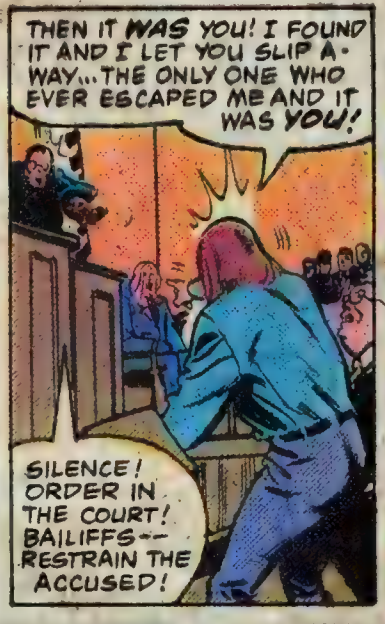
FOR A WHILE IT IS-- UNTIL THE PROSECUTOR GETS TO THE MEAT OF THE TESTIMONY...
--AND WHAT DID YOU THEN SEE ON THE NIGHT OF THE TWELFTH?
NOTHING. I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.
I WAS ALONE IN MY ROOM, LOOKING AT OLD SNAPSHOTS FROM THE PAST... IN TRENTON...

WHAT?! BUT DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT TELL THE ARRESTING OFFICER THAT YOU SAW THE ACCUSED--
I DID NOT. I DENY EVERYTHING.

BUT...BUT YOU CAN'T--!
I JUST DID.
STEVEN, WHAT IS HE--
I DON'T KNOW, MARLENE! IT'S CRAZY--!


DON'T YOU SEE?! I...I CAN'T! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?! IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I'M A DERELICT ALL RIGHT--DERELICT IN MY DUTIES AS A MAN--
--AS A HUMAN BEING--AS A FATHER! I CAN'T BLAME HIM! I CAN'T BLAME MY SON!!
S-SON...?

Cigars


THEN IT WAS YOU! I FOUND IT AND I LET YOU SLIP AWAY...THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER ESCAPED ME AND IT WAS YOU!
SILENCE! ORDER IN THE COURT! BAILIFFS--RESTRAIN THE ACCUSED!

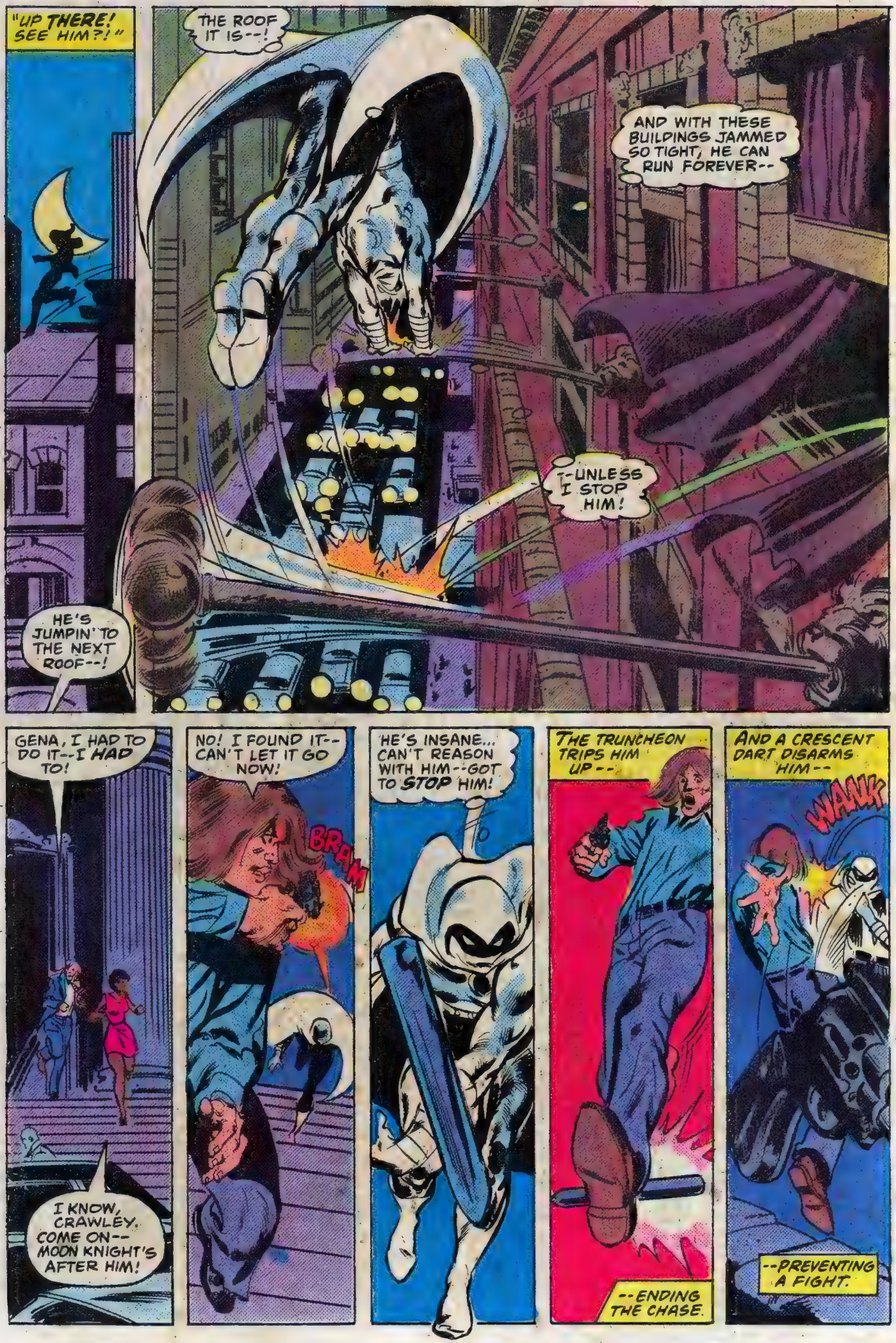
IT TOOK ME YEARS! MOTHER DIED BECAUSE OF YOU! YOU LEFT HER AND SHE DIED!
I TRACKED YOU, LEARNED YOU BECAME A BUM--

--SPENT MONTHS TRYING TO FIND YOU, BUT NONE OF THEM WERE IT!
GRAB HIM! HOLD HIM!
LOOK OUT! HE TOOK MY GUN! HE'S GOT MY--

--GUHH!
BRAM
THE OTHER BAILIFFS FALL BACK INSTINCTIVELY...

HE'S HEADING FOR MY CHAMBERS! STOP HIM!

...AND STEVEN GRANT BOLTS FROM THE GALLERY.
HE'LL ESCAPE OUT THE BACK--
--OR MAKE FOR THE ROOF!


"UP THERE! SEE HIM?!"
THE ROOF IT IS--!
AND WITH THESE BUILDINGS JAMMED SO TIGHT, HE CAN RUN FOREVER--
--UNLESS I STOP HIM!
HE'S JUMPIN' TO THE NEXT ROOF--!
GENA, I HAD TO DO IT--I HAD TO!
I KNOW, CRAWLEY. COME ON-- MOON KNIGHT'S AFTER HIM!
NO! I FOUND IT-- CAN'T LET IT GO NOW!
BRAM
HE'S INSANE... CAN'T REASON WITH HIM--GOT TO STOP HIM!
THE TRUNCHEON TRIPS HIM UP--
--ENDING THE CHASE.
AND A CRESCENT DART DISARMS HIM--
WANK
--PREVENTING A FIGHT.

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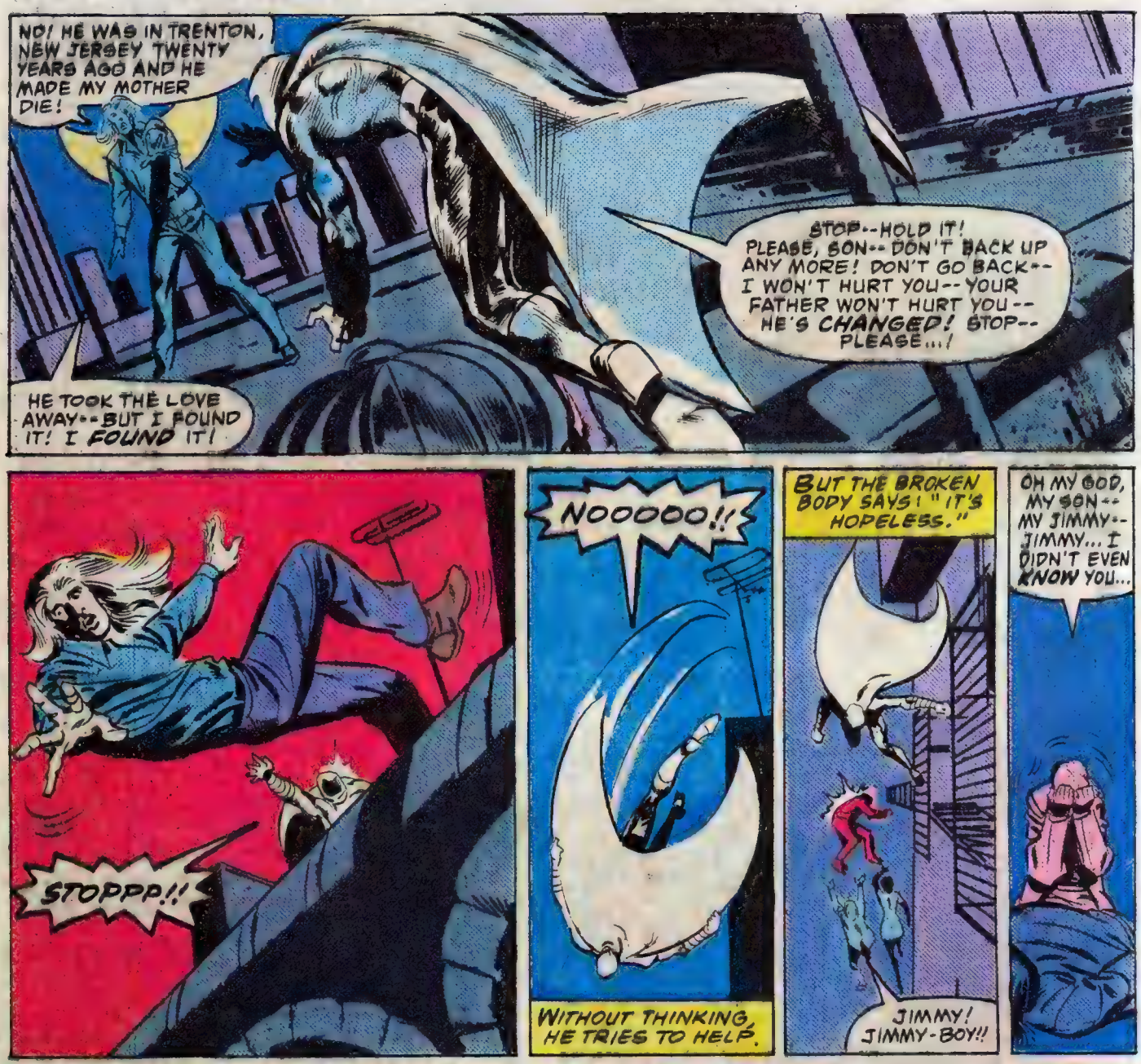
NO! HE WAS IN TRENTON, NEW JERSEY TWENTY YEARS AGO AND HE MADE MY MOTHER DIE!
STOP--HOLD IT! PLEASE, SON--DON'T BACK UP ANY MORE! DON'T GO BACK--I WON'T HURT YOU--YOUR FATHER WON'T HURT YOU--HE'S CHANGED! STOP--PLEASE...!
HE TOOK THE LOVE AWAY--BUT I FOUND IT! I FOUND IT!
STOPPP!!
NOOOOO!!
WITHOUT THINKING, HE TRIES TO HELP.
BUT THE BROKEN BODY SAYS! "IT'S HOPELESS."
JIMMY! JIMMY-BOY!!
OH MY GOD, MY SON--MY JIMMY--JIMMY... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU...
WELL, JAKE, I...I GUESS WE DID IT... SOLVED OUR FIRST CASE TOGETHER... NICE AND NEAT. TOO...SAVING THE STATE THE EXPENSE OF...OF REHABILITATING HIM...
I TRIED TO STOP HIM, CRAWLEY, BELIEVE ME, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN! HE WOULDN'T--
I...I KNOW THAT, JAKE...
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. IT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO...TWENTY YEARS AGO...IN TRENTON...AND IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT...IT WAS MINE...ALL MINE... AND I LET IT GET AWAY... LET IT SLIP AWAY...
...INTO THE GUTTER.

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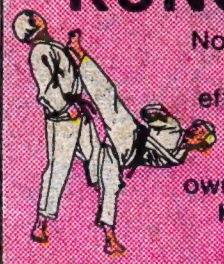

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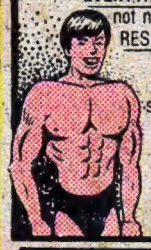

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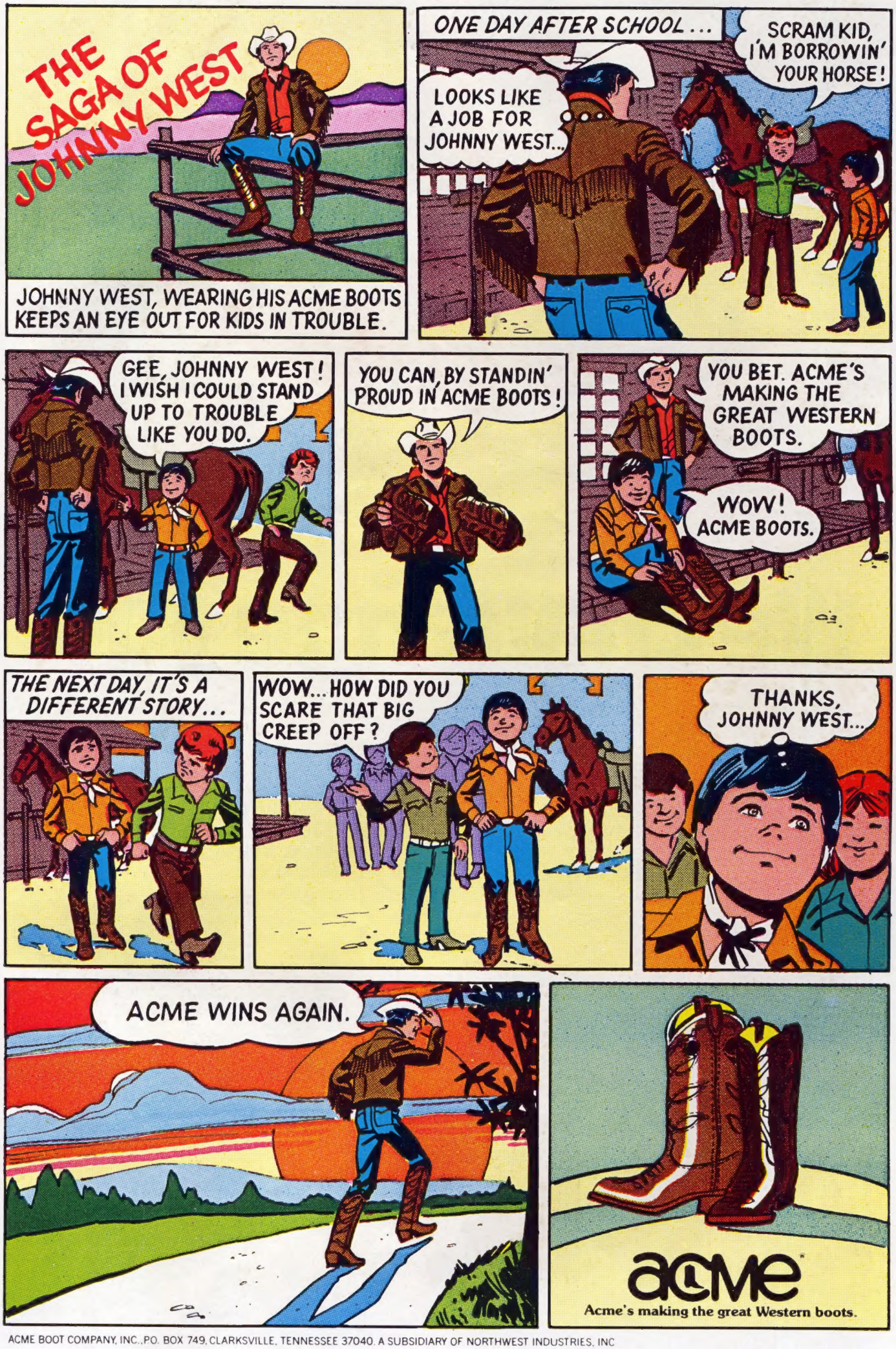

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